



The End Of The Beginning

Exodus 35:1–40:38

#20 in a series on Exodus

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Four Principles For Living And Working With God:

God Gifts His People For Serving Him.

1. The people of Israel building the Tabernacle. (35:30–36:2; cf. 31:1-6)
2. The people of the church. (Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; cf. Ephesians 1:19; 3:7, 20-21; 4:7-16; Philippians 2:13; Colossians 1:29; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

God's People Are To Obey Him Completely.

1. To obey His commands. (35-40; 24:3, 7; Leviticus 19:37; Deuteronomy 8:1; 11:1; John 14:15; 2 Corinthians 2:9)
2. To do His work His way. (compare chapters 25-31 with 35-40; 39:32, 42-43; 35:1-3; cf. 25:8-9, 40; 26:30; 31:32, 42-43; e.g., 1 Corinthians 14:40; 2 Corinthians 9:6-12; Ephesians 6:10-20)

God's People Are To Bless Others And Their Faithful Work.

1. Moses' example. (39:43)
2. Our practice. (cf. Romans 16:10-15, 23; Philippians 1:15-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4; 3 John 12)

God Demonstrates His Approval With His Presence And Direction.

1. To Moses and all Israel. (40:34-38; cf. 25:8-9)
2. To us. (cf. Psalm 90:17; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. The first of the four principles for living and working with God we looked at yesterday was that God gifts His people for serving Him. When we think of *gifted people* in the church we may think about pastors, missionaries, key leaders, or very talented people. Read what Moses says about Bezalel and Oholiab in 35:20–36:1.

The New Testament clearly tells us that God gives every believer abilities for serving Him (check the references on the outline). Whatever God asks you to do He has gifted you to do and will enable you to do. Thank Him. Listen to Him. Rely on Him. Serve Him.

Tuesday. Principle number two for living and working with God is to obey Him completely. God gave detailed directions for building the Tabernacle just as He gave the Law in detail. His call, His demand to Israel was unchanging: to love Him and keep all His commandments.

Obeying God includes doing His work His way. Just as the workmen were to build the Tabernacle exactly according to God's design, we are to use the abilities God has given us in His way—to line up what we dream, say and do with the teaching in the Bible. Doing things our own way can be the result of lack of thoughtful evaluation in addition to prideful rebellion. Obey God in all things today, doing them His way.

Wednesday. When all the work on the Tabernacle was done, Moses examined the work and blessed the workers for their faithful work (39:4). He was confidently declaring God's pleasure and favor on them because they had been faithful.

Do you look for and bless people for their faithfulness in serving God? It doesn't have to be anything extraordinary—any and every act of faithfulness is blessed by God, and we should bless the person when we notice it by expressing God's blessing, our thankfulness and appreciation to them. Bless someone today for his or her faithful service to God.

Thursday. When the Tabernacle was finished, God demonstrated His approval with His presence and direction. Read 40:34-38. "Yes," we can say, "it would be great to have a visible demonstration of God's approval" But we haven't seen a cloud of His presence hovering over and leading us. More important than a visible cloud is the reality of God's approval and direction when He gives His peace, joy and love to His faithful ones. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and then apply the principle Paul learned to where you are today, however good or bad the day may be.

Friday/Saturday. Church Camp starts today. Sunday School and the Worship Service will not be held at Knox this Sunday. If you are unable to join us at Camp, even for Sunday morning, visit another church.

We plan to begin a new series on the book of Romans on September 27. Begin familiarizing yourself with, or becoming reacquainted with the book.